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SPRINGFIELD, MASS.
NEWS

E-98,376

DEC 30 1967

DAILY NEWS MAILBOX

World Law and Peace

Recently I saw "The Comedians," a motion picture which, in part, portrays the savage reign of terror under which the people of Haiti live and die. There is perhaps no more brutal a dictatorship anywhere in the world.

Yet, by our State Department standards, Haiti is considered a part of the "free world." We would not dream of intervening there or in Greece, or in most other countries with dictatorial, anti-democratic regimes. To do so would be "to interfere in the internal affairs of a sovereign state."

However, we forget about the principle of self-determination of peoples when nations have governments which we consider truly objectionable. In Guatamala, the CIA connived at the overthrow of a democratically - elected government because we regarded it as Communist - dominated. In the Dominican Republic, we looked on placidly as the duly elected liberal, non-Communist Bosch government was overthrown. But when the military junta was itself in serious danger of being overthrown, mainly by the forces which had backed the Bosch government, we promptly intervened militarily. In Cuba, we did nothing while the

Batista dictatorship reigned. But Castro's successful revolution, because he was obviously sympathetic to communism, prompted us to inspire and finance the unsuccessful Bay of Pigs invasion.

I believe our policy everywhere in the world should be to encourage by peaceful means the growth of democratic, elected governments. Also, we should not interfere militarily in any internal upheaval, whether from the right or the left. This means we should have kept out of Guatamala, the Dominican Republic, Vietnam, and Cuba, that we should have remained aloof (and did) when the Greek government was overthrown, that we should not

now interfere in Haiti, and that we should continue to remain aloof if and when there are internal revolts against the present rulers of Greece and Haiti.

All of the above illustrates the need for a system of enforceable world law. No nation should have the right to interfere in the internal affairs of a neighbor. The U.N. should be given the right and the military might to compel all nations to live at peace. It is only when all nations abandon (by disarming) their futile attempts to achieve genuine security against attack and endow the U.N. with all the power needed to guarantee the security of the world, that astronomical sums will no longer be spent on defense and war can be abolished.

The United World Federalists have been saying this for 20 years and will continue to say it until law is achieved or the world explodes.

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